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Mexico

Post: Monterrey ATO

ATO Monterrey Saved 1 Million Dollars of U.S. Agricultural Trade

Report Categories:

Export Accomplishments - Other

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Report Highlights:

During calendar year 2010, the Agricultural Trade Office (ATO) in Monterrey successfully resolved border trade disputes with Mexico valued at approximately 1 million dollars. These detentions occurred in inland ports-of-entry located in northern Mexico where over 95 percent of U.S. agricultural and food exports are processed and cleared for import.

General Information:

Over 95 percent of agricultural products exported to Mexico from the United States cross through inland ports-of-entry located in northern Mexico. Exports of agricultural and food products from the United States are subject to import regulations enforced by inspectors from Mexico's Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fishery and Food (SAGARPA) at each of the points-of-entry.

In 2010, the United States exported over \$15 billion dollars of agricultural and food products to Mexico. Despite the robust level of trade, some U.S. exporters encountered problems during the border crossing process. Export documentation errors account for over ninety percent of all customs clearance problems, with the remainder being violations of sanitary and phytosanitary requirements or non-compliance of labeling regulations. At times, the Agricultural Trade Office (ATO) in Monterrey assists U.S. exporters in clarifying the problem and determining how best to proceed in resolving each stoppage.

Mexican government officials also contact ATO Monterrey for assistance to either clarify or resolve border trade issues. Although, this service is intended for U.S. exporters only, ATO Monterrey does assist Mexican exporters from time-to-time who encounter difficulties when exporting products to the United States. Providing this service is important because 50 percent of all Mexican exports contain U.S. components.

In 2010, ATO Monterrey handled 14 noteworthy cases. Through border monitoring activities and interventions, ATO Monterrey was able to release approximately \$1 million dollars worth of U.S. agricultural and food products. Within these 14 cases, approximately 70 percent were shipments detained due to export documentation errors and 21 percent were detained due to labeling issues. All of the shipments that were subsequently cleared contained U.S. meat products. The attached table contains specific information regarding each shipment.

For More Information

FAS/Mexico Web Site: We are available at www.mexico-usda.com or visit the FAS headquarters' home page at www.fas.usda.gov for a complete selection of FAS worldwide agricultural reporting.

FAS/Mexico YouTube Channel: Catch the latest videos of FAS México at work
<http://www.youtube.com/user/ATOMexicoCity>

Other Relevant Reports Submitted by FAS/México:

Report Number	Subject	Date Submitted
MX8020	Modifications to Authorized Crossing Border Points for Specific Agricultural Commodities	2/25/2008
MX0514	FAIRS Export Certificate Report	12/10/2010
MX0320	FAIRS Country Report	12/16/2010
MX1509	Update- Principal Border Entry Points for U.S. Agricultural	3/9/2011

	Exports	
MX1512	Exporting to Mexico-Managing Border Entry Issues	4/15/2011